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GENERAL NOTES.

Simplified Spelling.—In the April, 1915, number of *The Observatory*, the editor of the notes "From an Oxford Notebook" quotes a sentence from the *Publications A. S. P.*, and comments,—“More than one correspondent has drawn my attention to the modern American spelling and asked for a protest; but in questions of taste, such as the spelling of ‘thru,’ there is much to be said for letting every one choose for himself.” For this mild approval of the very few and conservative reformed spellings adopted in these *Publications* the editors are duly grateful. A mis-print, commented on by the Oxford astronomer, warns us, however, that it may be well to state just what simplifications are intentional, lest we be credited with greater radicalism than is our due.

To express our approval of the movement to effect some degree of reform in our spelling we have decided to adopt the spellings **tho**, **altho**, **thru**, **thru-out** **thoro**, **enuf**, **program**, **catalog**, and, in general, the simpler of any two “authorized” forms. When spellings like “unforseen” are encountered, credit, or the lack of it, should be given to the proof-reader.

The eighteenth meeting of the American Astronomical Society will be held in joint session with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at San Francisco and Berkeley, California, August 2-7, 1915. The program arranged by the local committee is as follows:—

Monday, August 2nd—

The first general session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in San Francisco at 10 A. M., and will include the addresses of welcome and response, and the President’s address. A reception to the members of the A. A. A. S. and affiliated societies and members of their parties will be held in the evening.

Subsequent meetings of the Society and meetings of the Council, unless otherwise stated, will be held in the Students’ Observatory, Berkeley, Cal.

Publications of the Astronomical Society, &c. 147

Tuesday, August 3rd—

9 A. M. Meeting of the Council.

10 A. M. Joint session with Section A of the A. A. A. S. and the American Mathematical Society, presided over by the vice-president of Section A, to hear addresses by Professor GEORGE E. HALE and Professor C. J. KEYSER. Section B of the A. A. S. and the American Physical Society have been invited to attend this session.

2 P. M. Joint meeting with the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. For a part of this meeting, the President of the A. S. P. will preside, during which time the Bruce Gold Medal of the A. S. P. will be presented, and papers by men who are members of both astronomical societies will be read.

Wednesday, August 4th—

The A. A. A. S. and affiliated societies will make an all-day excursion to Stanford University. If there is press of papers a session for their presentation may be held there.

Thursday, August 5th—

9 A. M. Meeting of the Council.

10 A. M. Meeting for the presentation of papers. Nominating ballots for officers.

2 P. M. Papers.

Friday, August 6th—

Excursion to the Lick Observatory, to include members of the A. A. S. and Section A of the A. A. A. S.

There will be no formal evening sessions of the Society. There are general sessions of the A. A. A. S. for addresses or formal lectures on all evenings except Wednesday, which is therefore available for dinners, reunions, etc., as may be arranged.

A conversazione for the informal exhibition of photographs, lantern slides, and other illustrations of astronomical work will be arranged, the time to be announced on the detailed program for the meeting.

It is announced in *Nature* that the *Gazette Astronomique*, the monthly bulletin of the Antwerp Astronomical Society,

publication of which was necessarily discontinued last autumn, is to be published in England if sufficient financial aid is given. The first number of the new series has, in fact, been issued.

We regret to record the death, on March 27, 1915, of Lady MARGARET LINDSAY HUGGINS. From the date of their marriage in 1875, she was an enthusiastic collaborator with the late Sir WILLIAM HUGGINS in his fruitful spectroscopic researches. "For thirty-five years they labored together and the numerous papers bearing their names as joint-authors commanded the admiration of the scientific world."

Dr. CARL G. ABBOT, Director of the Astrophysical Observatory of the Smithsonian Institution, has been elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. S. A. MITCHELL, Director of the Leander McCormick Observatory of the University of Virginia, has been appointed Ernest Kempton Adams Research Fellow by the trustees of Columbia University.